

Vol. 46—No. 33

October 15, 1955

Church of God
Evangel

The Supreme Council, 1954-1956



The Question Box

NOTE: All questions addressed to "The Question Box" must be signed if they are to receive a reply. However, names will be withheld from publication if requested. Only the questions considered of general interest will be answered in the EVANGEL.

QUESTION: Why did God approve Old Testament characters having more than one wife (as David, Joseph, etc.) and was so finally against it in the New Testament?—Dorothy J. Searcy, Oakboro, North Carolina.

SINCE THERE WAS no specific commandment against polygamy during the lifetime of most Old Testament characters, God seems to have overlooked it then. Still the practice was against His original plan. When Adam the first man needed a mate God created one woman to be his wife, not several. Genesis 2:24 says that man "shall cleave unto his wife"—not his wives. Nowhere is the plurality of wives advised, ordered or approved in the Scriptures. The custom arose without authority and was overlooked because it was not condemned. Among the Jews the custom died as naturally as it had arisen. By the time of Christ there is no evidence of it—except among the heathen. The Jews practiced polygamy without authority and ceased it without divine reproof. The practice, however, was so contrary to both human and divine nature that it was condemned in the New Testament. 1 Corinthians 7:2: "... let every man have his own wife..."—not wives.



COVER PICTURE

Autumn 1955 session of the Supreme Council. Seated, left to right: Charles W. Conn, Editor-in-Chief; Houston R. Morehead, Assistant General Overseer; Zeno C. Tharp, General Overseer; James A. Cross, Assistant General Overseer; H. D. Williams, General Secretary-Treasurer. Standing, left to right: James L. Slay, Pastor, Greenville, South Carolina; W. E. Johnson, Overseer of Tennessee; W. L. Ford, Overseer of Negro Work; J. D. Bright, Overseer of Texas; L. H. Aultman, Overseer of North Carolina; J. T. Roberts, Pastor, Lakeland, Florida; J. H. Hughes, Pastor, Canton, Ohio; Wade H. Horton, Missions Field Representative; John L. Byrd, Overseer of Alabama; H. L. Chesser, Pastor, Fort Lauderdale, Florida; E. M. Ellis, Pastor, Fort Myers, Florida; J. Frank Spivey, Pastor, Kannapolis, North Carolina; Earl P. Paulk, Overseer of Florida.

The Supreme Council of the Church of God has had a long and successful record. It is composed of the General Executive Committee and a council of twelve to assist them on important matters that must be considered between assemblies. The Supreme Council was instituted at the Assembly of 1916 and the first council was selected on February 13, 1917. The first meeting of the Supreme Council was October 4-17, 1917. Since then the council has met twice each year, in the spring and in the fall. Since 1930 the Supreme Council has been elected by the Ministers' Council. Before that time it was appointed in various ways.

The Council member with the longest term of service was E. J. Boehmer who served consecutively from 1917 to 1946 for a total of 29 years. The next longest period of service is that of E. F. Johnson who has served a total of 25 years. Since 1944 limitations on the General Executive Committee and on the twelve councilors has given a more rapid change of council members. A total of 61 men have served since the first council was selected in 1917.

Among the present members of the Supreme Council Zeno C. Tharp has the longest term of service, 22 years. The total years served by the remaining current members are: H. L. Chesser, 14 years; E. M. Ellis, 13 years; Earl P. Paulk, 13 years; J. D. Bright, 9 years; Houston R. Morehead, 9 years; J. T. Roberts, 8 years; W. E. Johnson, 5 years; James L. Slay, 5 years; Charles W. Conn, 3 years; James A. Cross, 3 years; H. D. Williams, 3 years; John L. Byrd, 3 years; J. H. Hughes, 3 years; Wade H. Horton, 3 years; J. Frank Spivey, 1 year; and L. H. Aultman, 1 year. The overseer of the colored work always sits with the Supreme Council to represent his department of the Church. W. L. Ford has served in this capacity for a total of 6 years.

IN THIS ISSUE

A Tavern in the Sky	William A. Ackerman	
The Bulletin Board		4
The Homemakers' Chapel	Mrs. Ralph E. Williams	5
Our Choice of a Blessing or a Curse	L. L. Beasley	6
Divine Faithfulness	Mrs. Ruth Starnes	8
The Preachers' Corner	W. M. Granger	11
Reports		12
Religious News		15

Church of God Evangel

Official organ of the Church of God

Charles W. Conn, Editor-in-Chief

Published Weekly by
The Church of God Publishing House
Cleveland, Tennessee—Phone 3600
E. C. THOMAS, Business Manager

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DECLARATION OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.
4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.
5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.
6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost.
7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people.
8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart.
9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement.
12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saint's feet.
13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years.
14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Subscription, per year	\$1.50
Single Copy	.05

Entered as second-class matter under act of March 3, 1879, at Cleveland, Tennessee. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, act of October 3, 1917. Authorized August 23, 1918.

An American tragedy
is that the commercial
airplane has become

A TAVERN in the SKY

By WILLIAM A. ACKERMAN
Director of the World Home Bible League

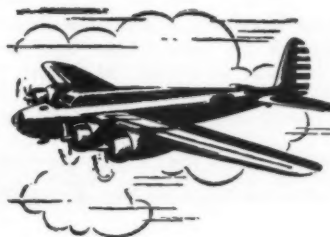
MANY OF YOU have heard of flying fortresses and flying boxcars, but how many of you have heard of flying taverns? The flying tavern is something new in aviation history, but it seems to be an increasingly popular innovation.

Just recently one of the major airlines proudly introduced a new plane. In glowing adjectives it describes the luxurious appointments. "It is a revolutionary new passenger plane just waiting to carry you to glamorous destinations around the world. It is the ultimate in gracious, spacious comfort. Two years of engineering design and \$1,500,000 worth of study were involved in making this new contribution to commercial aviation. Four compartments including a lounge and 18 tons of refrigeration equipment equal to 340 refrigerators are featured. It boasts such things as four 3,250 HP turbo compound engines, and one-half ton of electronic equipment aids the crew with communication and navigation." What hath man wrought!

But something new has been added. This new lady (if we could call her a lady) of the airlines is a flying tavern too. In order to introduce this luxurious mode of travel to the American public, free cocktails each flight is the featured event, and lo and behold, the drunkard, who has often been seen in the gutter, has now been raised to new heights above the clouds where people imbibe freely and no amount of liquor seems to be denied.

This new plane is easily distinguished from its sister ships for the nose of the fuselage of the ship is black. A sensitive radar unit is located here which "smells" out storm conditions or danger 100 miles or more away, enabling the flight engineer to avoid the danger zone and fly over or around it. It is amazing to note the great costs that have been expended for the purchase of safety equipment, at the same time that a more serious element of danger is introduced in the very fuselage of the plane.

During the last few weeks Harold L. Pearson, President of the Air Transport Association (ATA), representing 35 airlines, mailed proposals to the Civil Aeronautics



Board, urging that airline executives draft a "Liquor Code."

As a result of this, and other action, it is reported that certain laws will be enacted; one of them calling for non-alcoholic beverages to be served on Sunday or election day or to minors or to intoxicated persons. Sales would be eliminated also to flights of more than two hours, and to the hours between noon and midnight. Passengers who became drunk and noisy enroute would be "deplaned" at the first stop. The problem of alcohol in the sky is a problem that cannot be solved by placing limitations upon the serving of such alcohol. Christians should insist that alcohol and aviation does not mix and that the serving of all alcoholic beverages on commercial airplanes be banned.

An eminent doctor, having a syndicated column in leading daily newspapers, pointed to the fact that children are now visiting bar rooms in the sky. Passengers with children are often embarrassed by the serving of drinks. In most planes the serving of liquor is conducted in the passenger compartment, so no matter how one looks at it he becomes a participant of this evil practice.

In a recent article published in the "National Voice," it was stated that "the Airline Stewards and Stewardess' Association adopted a resolution disapproving the serving of liquor on commercial air transports. Officers of the Association were instructed to do their best to discourage the practice 'in the interest of the safety of the flying public.'"

In a recent article appearing in the "Methodist Clip Sheet," the following observation was made: "Airline stewardesses don't like to serve liquor. Many of them come from homes where alcohol is not served. They say it is one thing to be a gracious hostess and another to act as barmaid. Handling 'delightfully devilish' passengers is no fun."

A FEW WEEKS AGO I inquired from the stewardess concerning this practice and this was her response (Continued on page 11)

BULLETIN BOARD

Notice

TO LICENSED MINISTERS AND EXHORTERS

Your 1955 license will be void after December 31, 1955. Please send it in for renewal with your November report.

General Secretary and Treasurer

MILLIONS WILL READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER

Led by citizens of the United States, people in over forty countries will follow the 12th annual observance of Worldwide Bible Reading, sponsored each year by the American Bible Society.

Starting Thanksgiving Day, November 24, and continuing through Christmas, thousands of families will be reading identical passages of Scripture from the greatest chapters in the Bible. Lists of the passages, in convenient bookmark form, are provided by the American Bible Society, free of charge, to all who will use them. Again this year the Society has prepared the passages in Braille so that sightless people may join with others in following the readings.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who is honorary chairman of a national sponsoring committee of laymen, has issued a strong endorsement of the observance, as follows:

"Please accept my best wishes for the greatest possible success for this year's Worldwide Bible Reading Campaign, to take place between Thanksgiving and Christmas. In this period between the two holidays, when Americans give thanks for their blessings and renew their hopes for a just and lasting peace in the world, all of us, of whatever religious belief, may well turn to the Bible for guidance and inspiration for the tasks which lie ahead. I hope that many individuals and many families will do so, and that they will continue this practice in the New Year, joined by men and women of faith and good will in other lands."

The peak of the observance comes on Universal Bible Sunday, December 11. Churches of every Protestant denomination by the thousands observe the day throughout the United States and overseas. Posters, responsive readings, bookmarks and other material to assist pastors in the observance were mailed early in September to approximately 170,000 ministers.

Now as one of 42 member denominations cooperating without compromise, the Church of God on October 30 will testify to their recommendation of the National Association of Evangelicals by commemorating its thirteenth year of existence as their "voice of evangelical Christianity."

Since its organization in 1942, NAE has evolved 17 commissions to serve this Church around the world. They are accomplishing this as evidenced in the representative case reports which follow.

In India recently three evangelical missionaries were ordered to leave the country. At the insistent request of NAE's Washington office, the State Department inquired of the Indian government the "whys" of this unusual ousting. Although no explanation resulted, the missionaries were granted non-limited permission to remain at their fields of work.

The Columbian embassy gave an official nod of recognition to NAE currently by requesting the Washington Office of Affairs to develop criterion for missionaries to this South American country. If NAE judged missionary candidates acceptable, the Columbian embassy thus suggested that they would recommend visas be granted. For

the first time since 1946 a missionary candidate has now been approved.

Now available through NAE for locally sponsored advertising are a number of newspaper ads which proclaim the fundamental beliefs of evangelical churches. Patterned after the Knights of Columbus' series which boost Catholicism, this new collection (which will eventually include 30 advertisements) provides evangelicals with another medium of spreading the Gospel.

The National Religious Broadcasters, affiliate of NAE, has developed standards for its programs which have resulted in the warmest of relations with the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters, an organization which threatened not too long ago to discontinue broadcast of religious radio and television programs. At its thirteenth annual convention at Chicago in April, the NAE was honored with an address and discussion led by Mr. Harold Fellows, president of the NARTB.

On the world scene, the NAE has successfully encouraged union of evangelicals in 15 countries, the latest affiliate being the National Association of Evangelicals in Korea.

The above furnishes a sampling of the NAE as your voice for united evangelical action. Your support October 30 in this national observance for the continuation of the work of NAE is another method whereby you pledge your allegiance to the cause of Christ.

Like a Mighty Army, a history of the Church of God by Charles W. Conn, has enjoyed remarkable sales since its publication on July 6. Four thousand copies have now been sold. W. Purdue Stanley has just completed a series of lecture notes on the book. They were prepared for use by pastors who desire to teach a week's course on the history of the Church of God in their local churches. Of course, the lecture notes are adaptable for any other type of lecture series on the book. The Publishing House is offering a complete set of these lecture notes free to every pastor whose church orders ten or more copies of *Like a Mighty Army*. Every church is strongly urged to have a week's course on the book. The lecture notes by Brother Stanley may be purchased for \$1 a set by anyone who wishes them. Remember that a set will be provided free to each pastor whose church orders ten or more copies of *Like a Mighty Army*. The price of the book is \$5 a copy.

HURRICANE DEVASTATES BARBADOS

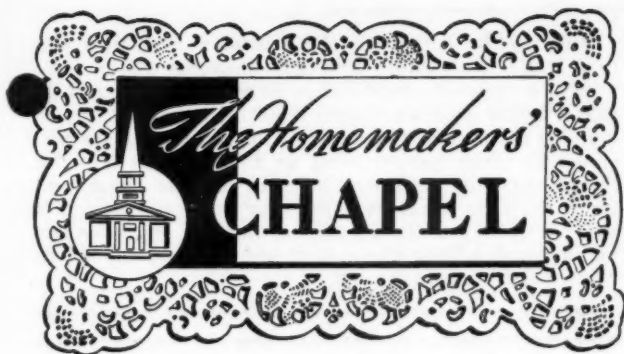
The following cable received from our Superintendent in Barbados, Luke R. Summers, speaks for itself:

HURRICANE DEVASTATED BARBADOS. TWELVE OF OUR CHURCHES DESTROYED, SIX MORE DAMAGED BADLY. WE ARE SAFE. LETTER FOLLOWS.

Let us remember to pray for our brothers and sisters in Barbados who have lost their church buildings, and if the Lord lays it upon your heart to send an offering to help rebuild these churches it will be greatly appreciated. Send all mail to: CHURCH OF GOD FOREIGN MISSIONS, 1080 Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, Tennessee.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of my grandfather, John Robinson, and his three oldest children, Bert, Mert, and Maud Robinson, please contact me at once. My mother, Grace May Robinson, has been lost from them for sixty years. More information can be obtained by writing Mr. Allen Frost, Route 1, Hebert, Louisiana.

Anyone having old *Evangels* and *Lighted Pathways* please contact Mark Morrow, Route 1, Loxley, Alabama who places them in state prisons and jails.



The King and I

By MRS. RALPH E. WILLIAMS

*The King and I walk down life's road together
Where many people go passing by,
The greatest One, and I, a lowly beggar,
Walk hand in hand, The King and I!*

THESE WORDS COME from a gospel song that is now being sung in churches from Maine to California; but the glory and true meaning of these lyrics fall upon deaf ears, because we fail to realize how boundless our opportunities are in walking daily with the King of all mankind. America as a nation, is winding its way to the offices of psychiatrists and psychologists to rid themselves of fears, doubts and nagging worries. With all the expert advice they receive, combined with many new medical remedies that are supposed to lift the human mind out of the abyss of despair, as lost, bewildered souls seeking a way out of their dilemma, they still roam the earth in ever-increasing numbers. Their security is gone, leaving them defenseless and sick of heart. If we could only reach them and leave with them these life-giving words, the world would again take on meaning; for the Giver of all that is good, would, with a touch of His hand, change their course and send them on their

journey with a changed heart and an upward look. By walking with the King, we cease to please ourselves. We move out of the small orbit of everyday existence and reach out to a lost world, leading them to Calvary and eternal life. We stop seeking so much for our individual desires and begin to seek for the needs of others, losing ourselves in service to God, His church, and His kingdom. By so doing, we find our own problems have vanished; life has reached that summit which God intended for us; and happiness is realized, only, in giving freely as God has given to us. Each step of the way—in the valley or on the mountain top—is abundant with joyous living when we walk by our Heavenly Father and say, "Not my will but thine be done." As mothers it is our delight to serve our families, friends and communities. This we do without a moment's hesitation; but it could be possible that in our eagerness to see that our families have life easier than we were permitted to have it we forget to teach them that he, who is greatest in the kingdom of God, must first be servant of all. Early training in sacrificial duties to God and His church becomes a must; for, as our youngsters grow into adulthood, habits formed in early years remain with them and mould their course of action through life. The majority of us will never be able to leave our children a rich inheritance of this world's goods; but if we can be successful in teaching them the glory and honor of Christian service and sacrifice, we have endowed them with riches that will last throughout this world and the one to come. In walking with the King numerous advantages are ours: our todays are in good hands; tomorrow can be faced with eagerness and peace. The future looms ahead as a beautiful picture for He, who notes the fall of the tiny sparrow, has promised He will never leave us or forsake us, but will go with us all the way! Serenity and courage become an integral part of our being when we are truly aware of the presence of the Almighty One by our side—giving us strength that our loved ones can lean upon in time of need. God help us to awaken and shake ourselves and see with a clear spiritual eye the great opportunity we enjoy in this day in which we live. May we walk with our shoulders squared, our eyes lifted to the hills, from whence cometh our help; and with a firm hold on the hand of our King—One who is from everlasting to everlasting and who holds the world in the palm of His mighty hand.



Following the line of least resistance is what makes rivers and men crooked.

— — —

The strength of a nation lies in the character of its citizens.

— — —

It is surprising to discover how much of our good conduct depends upon the watchful eyes of our neighbors.

— — —

Sin is a heart disease that can be permanently remedied only by the Great Physician.

Our Choice of a Blessing or a Curse

By L. L. BEASLEY, Jesup, Georgia

AS WE READ THE PROMISE of this great blessing to the tithepayer, let us think of it as a blessing without measure (unlimited). It says, "that there shall not be room enough to receive it." We are not justified in saying that these blessings are limited only to financial, physical, spiritual, or any one thing. Let us bear in mind that it is easy for man to break a promise, but God never breaks one. Then, those who fail to observe this commandment need not be surprised to receive the curse that is promised in verse 9. Tithing was a commandment under the law, and also that man of faith, Abraham, paid tithes to Melchizedek more than 400 years prior to the writing of the law.

Seemingly, tithing or paying the tenth, is one of the great stumblingblocks to many people; and many church members are guilty of refusing or neglecting this duty. Some attempt to justify themselves by reasoning that tithing was only to exist during the time of the Mosaic law, but both the ceremonial and moral laws were written, probably, in 1490-1491 B.C., according to Exodus 29:1-46 and Leviticus 1-7. Genesis 14:18-20, points us to the fact that Abram paid tithes of all to Melchizedek in 1918 B.C., probably, 427 or 428 years prior to the receiving the law. Psalm 110 and Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews tell of this great man Melchizedek. Hebrews 7:3 says,

"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase," Proverbs 3:9.

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it," Malachi 3:8-10.

"Made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually." Psalm 110:4 says, "The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." The Psalmist is speaking of Christ and refers to His continual priesthood.

When Jacob was seeking the great blessing of the Lord, he said, "And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee," Genesis 28:22. This was probably in 1760 B.C. Now we see that the Bible evidently sustained the teaching or the custom of tithing long before the law was written.

Let us notice some Scriptures during the law dispensation: Deuteronomy 12:6, speaks of God's commandment on paying tithes under the law. Leviticus 27:30 says, "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord." 2 Chronicles 31:2-5, speaks of the priests' and Levites' appointment to their courses according to their service. 2 Chronicles 31:2 says, "to minister and to give thanks and to praise in the gates of the tents of the Lord." Read of the blessing of tithing in verse 10. Numbers 18:21 says, "And behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation." Numbers 18:26-28, commands that the Levites pay a tithe of tithes unto the priest. Were not these Levites and priests under the law typical of the ministers of today? Their service was to minister pertaining to holy things and serve the tabernacle of the congregation. Nehemiah 10:38 says, "and the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes unto the house of our God, to the chambers into the treasure house."

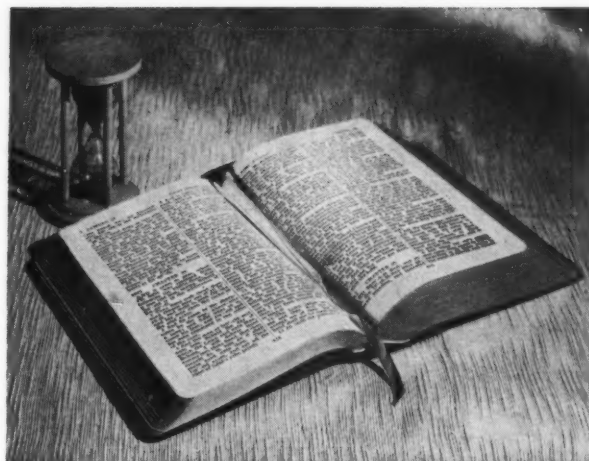
The law was not God's perfect plan and had to be abolished. Hebrews 10:1 says, "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect." Hebrews 10:4 says, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins." Hebrews 10:9, 10 says, "Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Hebrews 7:11 says, "If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchizedek,

and not be called after the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law." Hebrews 7:22-24 says, "By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this man because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood." The continuance of the law was not God's perfect plan; so He sent His Son, "Not to destroy the law, but to fulfill it." This made the necessity of a change in the law, and, also, a change in the priesthood. The Levitical priesthood under the law could not exist continually as the priest naturally had to die and of necessity be replaced by another priest; this no longer pleased God, but the ever-living, never-dying Christ, "for ever after the order of Melchizedek" as the high priest continually was God's perfect plan. The sacrifice of animals made every year under the ceremonial law was abolished, bringing us from under the law and into the grace dispensation. Hebrews 9:8-15, (not quoted) are Scriptures dealing with the time of the change from the law into the grace age. Let us quote here Hebrews 10:16, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them." Romans 2:13-15a says, "For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, those having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts."

MY FRIENDS, I think these Scriptures which are in harmony with others already quoted and those yet to be quoted, are sufficient to prove that tithe paying is one of the necessary duties of Christians. Because His laws are written in our hearts and minds, we pay tithes because we love God and want to pay them. We do not pay because of a compelling law. The Pharisees, scribes, and hypocrites liked to boast of their righteous deeds and tried to justify themselves by their works. However, the teaching of tithing suffers many unpleasant criticisms and contradictions to uphold the argument that tithing is no more a duty since the law is abolished. By that divine nature which we obtain after we accept God and He blesses us, we like to pay tithes in obedience through love and for necessity. Certainly some financial plan is necessary for the maintenance of God's divine works, and what better system could man establish to support the need than what God has already established (the tenth)? We are not convinced of any theory which pretends to sustain the argument that the duty of tithing was made void when the law, which commanded the offering and sacrifice of animals, their blood, their ashes, etc., was abolished. Christ said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil," Matthew 5:17.

Let us see what the Lord Himself said about paying tithes, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone," Matthew 23:23.

It seems that the Pharisees had proved themselves loyal so far as a work of tithing was concerned, but there were at least three spiritual, Christian characteristics



that they had not produced—"judgment, mercy, and faith," which the Lord said were "weightier matters." Let us notice that tithing was not ignored. Jesus said, "These ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." Now according to Mr. Webster's definition of this word "ought," the duty of tithing seems to be connected with these spiritual characteristics, "judgment, mercy, and faith." One dictionary definition of the word "ought" is "to be bound or obliged, as by duty or moral obligation." Luke 11:42 says, "And pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." Jesus knew the hearts and minds of this bunch of self-righteous Pharisees and He knew that they did not possess "the weightier matters." Their loyalty in tithing was not enough for Christian qualification. He knew they liked to boast of their own works, but their exalted spirits would not permit them to seek for the greater spiritual blessings. Their tithe paying was of little, if any, benefit to them. If Jesus, by way of conversion, could have turned them from their self-righteous ways to be real Christians, probably, their loyalty in tithing would have been considered a weighty matter, or at least a very important duty with great blessings in return. For this reason if they had been Christians, they would have paid tithes through love and obedience; but, since they were unchristian, tithe paying was not sufficient to Christianize them that they would possess these "weightier matters." James 2:10 says, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point he is guilty of all." 1 Corinthians 16:2 says, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." "Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel," 1 Corinthians 9:13, 14.

TITHING, BY WAY OF financial support, was pleasing to God in the prophetic age of Abraham's time during the priesthood of Melchizedek and was very closely connected with the Levitical priesthood through the Mosaic law. It is yet working fine in this dispensation

(Continued on page 10)



MICAH WAS ONE of the minor prophets. He was a native of Moresheth, a village in the south of the territory of Judah, so he was called the Morasthite. His prophecy was uttered within the space of fifty years, from the commencement of the reign of Jotham, through the reign of Ahab, and on to the close of the reign of Hezekiah. Jotham and Hezekiah were both good kings, but Ahab was extremely wicked. Micah thus witnessed the apostasy of the government and its recovery.

Though a prophet of Judah, Micah prophesied both to Judah and Israel, and mainly against Jerusalem and Samaria, the two capitals which were principally responsible for the sins of the people. Jehovah is represented as holding a controversy with His people, pleading with them in justification of His conduct toward them and the reasonableness of His requirements. He lays the idolatry of the nation and the hopeless state of society into which they have fallen, directly at the door of the rulers.

Micah's name means "Who is like Jehovah?" The style of his writings in many sections approaches to that of Isaiah. Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah. Their nearness of age and similarity of theme may account for the remarkable coincidences of thought and style to be found in various portions of their writings. His use of figurative language is beautiful and appropriate, his oracles sometimes assuming the form of a dialogue. As all the prophets, he follows the law of recurrence, covering the same ground over and over. His prophecies are distinct and clear. His diction is vigorous and forcible, sometimes obscure from the abruptness of its transitions, but varied and rich.

Micah makes known the judgment that is coming upon the land because of the sins of the people. Micah 1:3, "For behold, the Lord cometh forth out of His place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth." The people boasted of their relation to God as though

DIVINE FAITH

By MRS. RUTH S.

"Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by iniquity? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will not contend with his people; he will not be angry with them, because he is merciful. He will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all our iniquities away. He will perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which he said unto Isaac, saying, 'I will be thy God,'" Micah 7:18-20.

they were secure. But, though God bear long with a nation or individual, His judgment will overtake the ungodly. When God appears against man, it is vain to try any other refuge. It is a grave situation indeed to be without the protection of God, yet man in every age has failed to run to the stronghold provided by our Creator. When people are walking uprightly, the Lord will work strong in their behalf, but sin separates man from God.

Micah calls to mind some of their particular sins. Idolatry was one of the outstanding sins of that day. Idolatry denotes the worship of deity in a visible form, whether the images to which homage is paid are symbolical representations of the true God or the false divinities which have been made the object of worship in His stead. The first allusion to the idolatrous customs in the Bible is the account of Rachel stealing her father's images. During their long residence in Egypt, the Israelites defiled themselves with the idols of the land and it was long before the taint was removed. During the life of Joshua and the elders who outlived him, they kept true to God. But the generation following knew not Jehovah nor the works He had done for Israel, so they swerved from the plain path of their fathers and were caught in the sins of the heathen around them.

THE SUN AND MOON were early selected as outward symbols of power and the worship of the heavenly bodies was the most prevalent system of idolatry. Then beast worship and images of all forms and shapes were introduced. Mountains and high places were chosen spots for offering sacrifices and burning incense to idol gods. Idolatry was a direct offense against the first and second commandments. These are directed against any form of idol worship. By the Jewish law, the idolater was to be stoned to death and a city guilty of this sin was to be wholly destroyed.

FAITHFULNESS

RUTH STARNES

*guity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his
e he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have com-
-thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. Thou wilt
am, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of*

We see that idolatry was strictly forbidden, yet time and again it was said of Israel, they followed other Gods. They defeated God's plan for them in partaking of this evil. Sacred things were profaned while the people followed the worship of the heathen nations round about them. They served the work of man, creatures of their own fancy, and burnt incense to these strange gods. Samaria and Jerusalem were the places which had the greatest influence upon the people because they were the royal cities of the two kingdoms; therefore the leaders should be severely punished. They enriched themselves by their leagues with the idolatrous nations but God's curse was upon their gain.

Many have wondered why the Israelites were so easily led away from the true God into this idol worship. Remember, the Israelites were a simple, agricultural people, whose worship and laws demanded the greatest purity of life. This idol worship was an attractive thing to the natural heart, for the natural man often fails to perceive the unseen spiritual realities. It appealed to every sensual passion, because it was joined with the attractions of wealth, fashion, and luxury. The Devil always shows the most attractive part of sin, never does he show the end of the broadway. Much evil would be avoided if man could see the dangers ahead. The Devil deceives a person by hiding the danger of sin and the end is death.

God desires first place in the heart of man. He will not force Himself as an unwelcome guest. We must invite Him into our lives. He will rule upon the throne of our hearts if we yield ourselves to Him in complete surrender. Some would like to give Christ a small room in the back of their heart, but God does not accept an offer like that. We may not see any graven images in our land today, but some people are just as guilty of idolatry as the heathen for they allow other interests to take first place in their lives. The people here were accused of evil plans and devices.



It is bad to commit sin at any time but more so to plan evil works. When they should have been remembering God and meditating upon His goodness, they were planning their campaign of evil as they lay upon their beds. Then when the morning came they hastened to put these evil plans into practice. A tremendous charge was laid against the rulers, for they abhorred judgment and perverted equity. Because of this, many followed in their pernicious ways. It is ever thus, when a leader fails to walk uprightly, others go down with him. He becomes a stumblingblock to those who are earnestly seeking truth. Every Christian should walk righteously before God, but especially those entrusted with the souls of others. If you are a leader, be very cautious for you are influencing those souls under your charge.

The people were guilty of the sin of covetousness. They planned ways to get another man's goods without thinking of the great wrong. They took away fields, lands, and houses with violence by a high hand. They persecuted the prophets of God and oppressed the poor of the land. The same wickedness continued from one generation to another. Sin is an evil easily planted but not so easily plucked up. The wages of sin are sure to be reaped. Many innocent souls in every age are made to suffer for the sins of others.

THERE WAS universal corruption in the land. Micah 7:1-4, "Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit. The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net. That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrapt it up. The best of them is a brier:

the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity." Here the prophet sadly laments the woeful decay of religion in that age. He tells of the deluge of impiety and immorality which overwhelmed the nation. There was no faith in man. People had grown so treacherous, one knew not whom to put confidence in. It is bad for a people when their judges, princes, and great men join in a confederacy to pervert justice. It is sad, indeed, when a man's enemies are they of his own household—his children and servants who should be his best friends.

Thus far the picture has been a dark one, yet there is hope for Israel. Though the land lay desolate for a time because of God's judgment, at length it will be replenished again. Micah 7:7, 8, "Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me." Israel stands charged with many transgressions, but the gracious God is ready to pardon their iniquity if they will repent and turn to Him. The whole concludes with a triumphal song of joy at the great deliverance, which God will achieve, and a full judgment of His mercy and faithfulness to His promises.

There is a remarkable prophecy hidden away in the book of Micah. Let us observe how God can give a great message in a seemingly insignificant book. Micah 5:2, "But thou Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." This prophecy thrills us as we think of Christ's birth and the many events which led up to His being born in Bethlehem. This Christ reigns today over His spiritual children as they yield their lives to Him. He is our High Priest and He makes intercession to God the Father for us.

In our greatest distresses we have no need to fear if we keep our faith anchored in God. He will work out our salvation if we depend upon His guidance. Though the enemy triumphs at times by causing adversity, he shall be silenced and put to shame. Sometimes it has seemed as though iniquity was destined to prevail. Sometimes, when the forces of evil have arrayed themselves against the good, the conflict has seemed uncertain. Even the bravest souls of earth have been tempted and tried. The days are sometimes dark, it seems for the time there is no God to care, but take courage, weary pilgrim, we shall not fall if our faith is in God. Someone has said, "The goldsmith is never far away when the gold is in the fire." What a comforting thought this is to us. Job said, "When He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." He had cause to believe he would not be burned. And let us remember, the goldsmith is not trying to destroy the gold, but the cross. God allows a period of testing to strengthen His saints. The Lord is faithful to all His promises and He gives multiplied blessings to His children. With this thought in mind, let us strive to be more like our Master.



God's investment at Calvary will pay dividends throughout eternity.

OUR CHOICE OF A BLESSING OR A CURSE

(Continued from page 5)

of the unchangeable priesthood of Christ. It remains the fundamental principle of the financial plan for supporting the gospel's deliverance to win souls to Christ and for the maintenance of the pastors who watch and care for the Church. Let me advise, especially those who are young in the Christian way, to watch that they be not deceived by books, pamphlets, or any philosophy of so-called Christian workers, whose teachings are unscriptural and in contradiction to God's Holy Bible. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," 2 Timothy 2:15.

There are many Church members, as well as backsliders and sinners, who fight tithing and complain about giving tithes and offerings to ministers. They say that preachers ought to work and support themselves and their families. These same complainers refuse to pay that little tenth part, which is His, to God's cause; but they think nothing of spending wastefully, foolishly, or selfishly, many times that amount and it will never win a soul to Christ. Then they wonder why their troubles are so heavy, and they are not blessed as others are. "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." When Christ was admonishing the people not to follow the evil examples of the scribes and Pharisees, He said, "Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel." There seem to be plenty of "gnat strainers" and "camel swallows" today.

Paul said, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel," 1 Timothy 5:8.

Not every case, but many cases of tithe neglect or withholding are indications of either covetousness, hatred, or ignorance. There are some who claim to tithe by giving to the poor, the sick, to disabled widows, or to the evangelist. This kind of giving is charity work and good; but it is giving only an offering or donation—not tithing, according to the Levites' and priests' custom under the law. The Levites and priests seem typical of our present-day ministers who should receive the tithes.

In conclusion, let me say, it is not an unusual practice for some who appear to be good spiritual Christians to withhold their tithes at times for a week, a month, or more. In case of an extreme financial need of their own, they, in good faith, expect to pay them later when the future is brighter. This mistake is due largely to unthoughtfulness and when the expected time comes to pay the redeemed tithe, usually, the circumstances are worse or as bad as when they withheld their tithe. This neglect may be easy to repeat again and again, until it looks like a mountain to catch up all back tithes; then discouragement, unhappiness, or condemnation may be the result and they have missed the blessing. Suppose every tithepayer would withhold his tithe for a month, what would happen to the pastor, the ministry, the spirituality of the church, and the general movement? Let us not do a bit in paralyzing these affairs. Let us remember, in the first place, the tenth of our earning or increase is the Lord's and not ours. It is to be paid or set aside for the purpose of paying a tithe; then the ninety per cent is ours. And in my honest opinion it is worth more to us than the one hundred per cent would be if it were not tithed.

TAVERN IN THE SKY

(Continued from page 3)

ply. "We don't really want to serve drinks, but we have to. All the airlines are doing it." In the particular plane I was in two women passengers had been drinking excessively and the stewardess referred to them by saying, "You know, if there was an emergency, I am not so sure I would be willing to sacrifice my life in getting those people out of here. They wouldn't know what to do anyhow."

Further elucidation upon this problem of alcohol in the skies is given by a paragraph from *The Church Herald* which reads in part, "Pilots deplore alcohol service, according to the president of the Airlines Pilot Association, Clarence Sayen. Mr. Sayen, according to an article in *American Aviation* opposes drinking aloft, claiming that pilots should not have to play nursemaids to people who cannot hold liquor."

There is the old story of the principle of the moral margin, telling of the chauffeur who wanted to display his skill by showing how close he could come to the edge of the mountain. These cocktail parties in the sky are something like that. Flight crews are men of high caliber and we have the utmost confidence in them for we entrust our lives to their care. But between the cabin and the cockpit is just one thin door and inside the cockpit are the pilot, the co-pilot and the flight engineer. Just a little too close to this source of liquor to be comfortable—too close to temptation. We have made great advances in aviation history during the present decade, but alcohol in the skies is a problem for all of us to rebel against.

One of the major airlines at the present time has a \$50,000 contest. In order to win the \$50,000 one must predict what aviation will be like in 1985. Who dares to make such a prediction in the face of the problem we have discussed? And if someone dares to make such a prediction, what airline would ever print it? Look over the timetables of the major airlines. At the present time one of them flying exclusively on the west coast has a special plane called the "Champagne Flight." It is advertised as an all-luxurious service with champagne at no extra cost. Another well-known airline features double deck strata cruisers and operates a bar on the second deck of the ship. Trans-Atlantic travel is not quite complete now, you know, without the customary drinks. You can travel across the United States and you can travel across the world on credit today. In fact, they'll throw in free cocktails along the way. In many states it is illegal to buy liquor on credit, but the airlines have gotten around that.

Christians everywhere should rebel against this hideous practice. Tickets which are purchased must certainly cover the cost of the alcohol dispensed and the tickets of the non-drinkers help to pay for this liquor. The atmosphere of the flying tavern is one that no true Christian can conscientiously enjoy. The Civil Aeronautics Administration has done an excellent task in keeping the airlines safe. They are a conscientious group who are determined to make commercial aviation as safe as sitting in your parlor. Christians should write to the Civil Aeronautics Administration at 226 W. Jackson, Chicago, Illinois, and protest the serving of alcoholic beverages on commercial flights. Christians should also check with travel agents and passenger representatives of the airlines and inquire whether or not there will be alcoholic beverages served on the flight they plan to use. Although free cocktails are dispensed on many first-class flights, not all feature this

service. The safest way for the Christian to travel today as far as the alcohol problem is concerned is to take Air Tourist, which is cheaper anyway. In event you cannot take Air Tourist because of a busy schedule and alcohol is served on your flight, ask the stewardess for a complaint form. Write it out and send it to the President of the Airlines in protest.

Scientists interested in the future of our great cities are anxiously analyzing and measuring the radio activity in the clouds. Recent explosions of atomic and hydrogen bombs have contaminated the atmosphere and clouds have borne this contamination over our great cities. But Christians everywhere should look to the skies too and see a new problem of contamination—alcohol in the skies.

THE PREACHER'S CORNER

By W. M. GRANGER, Pastor, Slater, South Carolina

2 Timothy 4:5: "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

Daily Watching in Prayer

The first clause covers the entire life as we go along. Lord, help me this day to be a good Christian. May my actions, as well as my attitudes, in every case, be in tune with the Spirit of Christ. I am listing 24 reminders along this line.

1. May my thoughts be constructive
2. My mind clear
3. My interests broad
4. My motives unselfish
5. My ambitions worthy
6. My posture erect
7. My spirit gentle
8. My faith serene
9. My outlook courageous
10. My demeanor modest
11. My words cheerful
12. My manner courteous
13. My conduct exemplary
14. My contacts pleasant
15. My patience steady
16. My judgment fair
17. My work efficient
18. My service diligent
19. My tolerance marked
20. My forbearance unlimited
21. My tact unfailing
22. My arguments reasonable
23. My criticism sparing
24. My mind centered on Christ

—Watchman-Examiner.

reports

Maryland Camp Meeting

From the very first prayer it was evident to all spiritual-minded people that God had something special in mind for the Church of God camp meeting at the Campground at Shiloh, on the eastern shore of Maryland, and each succeeding service only served to deepen that conviction.

The preaching was excellent all the way through, and offered varieties of style and delivery that pleased everyone. Brother W. C. Byrd was at his best as he presided over the camp in the capacity of State Overseer; and Leon Ellis, as Youth Director, in charge of music, was, as always, outstanding as he was assisted and aided by Brothers Edwin Tull, Roy Miller, and many others.

Brother Edwin Tull as the Bible teacher, in an area in which he has pastored successfully for ten years, commanded the respect and appreciation of all who heard him, with his Spirit-filled Bible classes.

Brother Vep Ellis, Camp evangelist for his second consecutive year, was, in everyone's opinion, possessed of an even greater ministry and anointing of the Holy Ghost than ever before, as night after night the Spirit fell and people were blessed as he preached and sang. In the altar services that followed numbers testified to being healed of every imaginable disease. Forty-eight were gloriously filled with the Holy Ghost, and numbers were saved and sanctified.

Others to whom a debt of appreciation is owed for the ministry of the Word, under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, are Brothers H. B. Ramsey, Overseer of South Carolina; F. L. Muller and J. L. Brewer, both of South Carolina; P. H. McSwain, of Washington; S. B. McCane, Sr., of Virginia; C. J. Hindmon, Overseer of Pennsylvania; Henry C. Stoppe, Overseer of New Jersey; Brother Bloomingdale of Texas. Houston Morehead, our Assistant General Overseer; Mark Summers; and last, but by no means the least, Brother Wade Horton, from the Missions Department, who ably ministered in the mission service. All these great blessings and work were done in spite of bad weather all the way through, and one day's meetings interrupted by Hurricane Connie. However, some said that the crowds, in spite of it, were as great or greater than in many previous years. To quote the testimony of several preachers from various places: "This may not be the largest camp I have ever been to, but it is the best and most spiritual."—M. G. Summers, Reporter.

Missouri Camp Meeting

The Missouri State Camp Meeting, which convened at the Methodist Assembly Grounds in the Arcadia Valley, is now history, but the many blessings received linger in the hearts of the hundreds who were privileged to at-

tend. From the opening song on Monday night until the closing prayer on Saturday night, God's people sang forth His praises. This must have pleased God, because the more His people praised Him, the more God showered them with blessings.

I have seen people rejoice in the Lord many times, but it has been a long time since I have seen people shouting, praising God, and dancing in the Spirit as they did at this wonderful gathering. Night after night God continued to pour out His blessings upon His people. It would be difficult to determine just how many received a definite experience with the Lord, but the many testimonies convinced me that many were saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost. The skeptic of healing should have been here, because the sincere testimonies of those who were healed would have made him question his belief that God does not heal.

David said, "How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." I believe if David could have been there, he would have again echoed those words when he observed the precious unity among the brethren at this camp meeting. From the start the ministers felt that this was God's camp meeting, and humbled themselves so that He could have His wonderful way with them. Night after night as they lined the altar, one could feel that here was a group of ministers bent on God's work, wanting to see God work, and willing to do anything to help with the task. Their consecrated lives meant much to the seekers at the altar.

Everyone who attended would, no doubt, agree that no camp meeting could have been blessed with good God-anointed preaching any more than ours was this year. Surely only the inspiration that God gives could have caused the visiting preachers, as well as Missouri's own preachers, to preach as they did. To have heard the messages by Brother Charles Conn, Editor-in-Chief of Church of God Publications; Brother Wade H. Horton, Missions Field Representative; Brother O. W. Polen, Assistant National Sunday School and Youth Director; Brother F. W. Goff, Overseer of Illinois; Brother T. A. Perkins, Overseer of Oklahoma; Brother C. E. French, Missionary to Peru; and Brother Henry Ellis, pastor in Columbus, Ohio, would have been a camp meeting in itself. But God did not stop with these men, because nightly He gave us glorious services that set our souls ablaze with the "old time power." The Christ-centered, God-inspired singing of Brother "Vep" Ellis, Miss "Pat" and "Little" David thrilled our souls during all of the meeting. Never have I heard more dynamic preaching than that done nightly by Brother Ellis. After singing each night

almost beyond the endurance of an ordinary man, Brother Ellis would be refreshed by God so that he could fully put himself into messages that never failed to bless our hearts.

If the director is not careful the L.W.W.B. program can become dull through the reading of many reports. Such was not the case with our ladies' program this year. Sister B. E. Ellis had a splendid program arranged that moved rapidly along and kept the interest of all until the finish. An excellent play had been arranged that was instructional as well as entertaining. The reports proved again that our L.W.W.B.'s are playing a great part in the progress of our churches, and in some cases they are making it possible for the church to keep its doors open.

Our Youth Day, as usual, proved to be a wonderful addition to the camp meeting. In the morning a panel, second to none, gave a very intelligent discussion of Sunday School work. After a wonderful message by Brother O. W. Polen in the afternoon, many young people consecrated their lives anew to the Lord Jesus Christ. The sight of the annual Youth March, with so many young persons dedicated to the cause of Christ, again thrilled our hearts.

There were numerous visitors whose presence added greatly to the meeting. Notable among these were the aforementioned preachers and Brother Lewis J. Willis, Editor of the *Lighted Pathway*; Brother R. Leonard Carroll, President of Lee College; and Brother Earl Golden, pastor in Kansas and a member of the National Youth Board.

It was evident from the conversations that everyone enjoyed the camp meeting, and I am sure that all who attended voice with me a note of appreciation to our hard-working State Overseer, Brother B. E. Ellis, and the State Council who prepared such a feast of wonderful things for us at this camp meeting. This meeting was just another indication of the wonderful leadership Missouri is enjoying through men who will be led by the Spirit of God in their business as well as their personal lives.

Because of the wonderful spirit of cooperation shown, and the zeal and enthusiasm in the hearts of God's people as they left the campground, I predict for Missouri the greatest year of progress in its history. God will make it so.—Reporter.

PINE HILL, Ala.—We are praising the Lord for His wonderful love and mercy to us, and for the way He meets with us in our regular services here. I believe the church is on the upward move. We also thank the Lord for our faithful pastor and his wife, Brother and Sister Barrett. I know the Lord will bless them for their untiring efforts to prove a blessing to His great cause.—Mrs. J. G. Champion.

1955 Iowa State Convention And Camp Meeting

Repetitious, but not in vain!

Again all facilities of the Hickory Grove, Open Bible camp site near Ottumwa, Iowa, were turned over to the Church of God for a third consecutive annual camp meeting of this great Midwestern state. And a camp meeting it was in every respect.

Diligent beforehand preparation by the overseer and assigned committees, faithfulness for the duration of the camp; enthusiastic response by both ministry and laity, supporting interest by visiting overseers, ministers and laity; and powerful and effective ministry of the Word by guest ministry combined to make this camp meeting a success.

Heavenly benedictions confirmed the approval of the Divine on this holy convocation which closed all too soon at about 1:30 a.m., on Monday, August 8, with shouts of victory from those who had tarried long at the altar of prayer.

A brief survey will convey to you, who know us Iowans only by the reports you read, that your prayers and financial help to this progressing mission state have rewards of super value that time will reveal. And may the bowels of compassion of the stronger states never be closed to the needs of a weaker until she, too, may become strong. Here live and labor some of the finest people in the world with big hearts that have been warmed by Christian love. For three years, again and again, we have heard those encouraging whispers "We love and appreciate you." Dare we fail them? Never!

The records of the state were broken at camp this year. For the first time every pastor in the state was present at the camp meeting at the same time. More attended for longer periods than ever before. Every licensed minister in the state attended the camp meeting except two. The missions representative informed us that he knew of no state that exceeded Iowa in its per capita missions offering—\$7.86 a member. The total offering was \$3,045.40, which exceeds last year's offering by over \$1,000. So great was the response of the laity in attending the camp that the facilities were swelled to overflowing, and by the week end a regular little tent city greeted all week-end delegates. Campers moved out of dormitory rooms to sleep in the tabernacle and dining hall, some without beds, to make room for others coming in. In every sense of the word this was reminiscent of old camp meeting days.

No, they were not there by the thousands, but the exceedingly great interest in this camp meeting produced encouraging anticipation for like occasions of the future. Every department of the Church was stimulated with greater zeal for the future activities of the Church of God in the Midwest. Yes, we have encountered the stubborn resistance of Satan to yield to the forces of God, but it has tended only to heighten our determi-

nation to conquer the forces of evil in our bout with Satan for the deliverance of the precious people here. Please support us with your prayers.

As on many prior occasions the camp meeting was blessed to have as a representative of General Headquarters Houston R. Morehead, Assistant General Overseer, and Mrs. Morehead. Each of them always contribute much to the Lord's services wherever they go, and Iowans love them dearly. David Glover, a native of Iowa and Principal of the Northwest Bible School, Minot, North Dakota, effectively represented Church of God schools (we have two students going from the Jefferson Church to Lee College) and blessed the camp meeting with his messages and his attendance at every service for the duration of the camp. J. H. Walker, Jr., accompanied by Mrs. Walker and children, was the missions representative from the Missions Department. He stirred the zest for missions, which was already ignited in Iowa, by his revealing message of missions in Haiti in particular and the world in general.

Overseers attending the camp meeting were: F. W. Goff, of Illinois; E. D. Moore, of Wisconsin; Grady L. Waters and family, of Minnesota; and Frank Bradley and family, of Nebraska. Numbers of out-of-state ministers, as well as many members of the laity, from other states were present.

The Youth Department was well accounted for on Youth Day by J. H. Watson, state youth director of Iowa. The L.W.W.B. also had a part in the camp program.

R. P. Johnson and his son, R. J. Johnson, were notably outstanding as the morning and evening speakers. I cannot begin telling of all the good things they said and did, but their words and deeds caused conviction and brought forth praises unto God the Eternal One. One visiting out-of-state minister said that he had visited many camps, all larger ones than ours, but Iowa's was the richest camp meeting he had ever attended. Surely it was good to be there.

I do not wish to be too complimentary of Brother J. L. McCoy, our beloved overseer, but we do owe a debt of gratitude to him. He was obliged to steer the course of this meeting from the beginning to the ending, but to God be all the glory now and forever.—Mrs. J. L. McCoy, Reporter.

"Heralding His Coming" Theme Of New Mexico's State Convention and Camp Meeting

The city of Roswell, once known as the "city of trees," was the center of attraction on August 2-6, because it was in this city at the Church of God that the New Mexico State Convention and Camp Meeting convened.

Brother R. R. Seyda, host pastor, along with his people, had everything in readiness for a great camp meeting. The Mayor of Roswell, the Honorable Bert Ballard, welcomed the

convention. Brady Dennis, our state overseer, had a fine program outlined for the services, the theme of which was **Heralding His Coming**.

From the time of the opening service, one felt that God was present to bless and give a great convocation; and needless to say we were not disappointed. Each committee performed its duty in a very excellent manner; the fellowship was wonderful; the singing was outstanding. Each minister that participated was anointed of the Lord. Our outstanding night speaker, Brother C. R. Spain, delivered God's Word to hungry hearts; and evidence of its accomplishment was seen in the altar.

A well-planned youth service under the direction of our state youth director, William J. Dobben, was presented on "Youth Day." The service was highlighted by an Orphanage play which was given by the Carlsbad Church. The night service was graced by a film, **Missionary to Walker's Garage**. The Children's Church services each day were a blessing to all of the children who attended.

The lectures and sermons delivered by Charles W. Conn, General Headquarters representative and Editor-in-Chief of Church of God publications, were of outstanding value to the convention.

The Lord richly blessed in the L.W.W.B. program which was presented on Saturday morning of the camp meeting. A play written by the State L.W.W.B. president, Mrs. Brady Dennis, was presented by the Carlsbad Church. The annual L.W.W.B. awards were given at this service. Hobbs won the banner for Group A. Clovis won the banner for Group B.

The mission service, in charge of Brother Johnnie Owens, Missions Representative, was very outstanding. His enthusiasm and personal experience in behalf of the cause of missions certainly made an imprint upon our hearts. The total 1955 missions offering for the State of New Mexico was \$2,673. The Clovis Church, where F. H. Dance is the pastor, won both missions prizes. One prize was given for the largest missions offering and the other for the largest missions offering based on church membership.

Saturday night was a special night for all of New Mexico's Lee College Alumni. A banquet and business meeting was held in the New China Cafe's banquet room.

We were very fortunate to have a number of out-of-state visitors with us—J. D. Bright, State Overseer of Texas; Othea Stegall, E. L. Murphy, and Lewis Bowerman, of Texas; A. G. Thompson, State Overseer of Colorado; Charles W. Conn, Headquarters Representative and Editor-in-Chief; Johnnie Owens, Foreign Missions Representative; Rev. and Mrs. R. H. McKinney, and James E. Bowers, of Arizona; and C. R. Spain, State Overseer of Michigan.

The Camp Meeting could well be summed up in a testimony given: "It had the ingredients to make it a good camp meeting."—Reporter.

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religious news



'CHURCH OF PRESIDENTS' REDEDICATED IN NEW JERSEY

The unused "Church of Presidents" in Long Branch, N. J., was rededicated last Sept. 12 as a historical museum. The building, erected in 1879, was originally a branch chapel of St. James Episcopal church. It became known as the Church of Presidents because six U. S. presidents worshipped in it at one time or another while vacationing at the north New Jersey seashore resort.

The presidents included: Hayes, Grant, Garfield, Arthur, Harrison, McKinley and Wilson.

As a museum the former chapel will be a showplace for historic souvenirs from "the golden age" of Long Branch—the period between the end of the Civil War and the early part of this century.

The State of Israel, enjoying a highly profitable tourist season, has acted to assure more of the same. Red tape has been eliminated so that American citizens no longer need apply for an Israel Visitor's Visa, they now need only have their passports stamped at their port of entry into Israel.

Initial construction has begun on the first seminary in the U. S. for the training of Buddhist priests. It is located in New York City where more than 2,000 members of the Shin Buddhist sect are now living.

The back-to-school trek this fall, according to the U. S. Commissioner of Education, consisted of: 27,738,000 elementary; 7,422,000 secondary and 2,740,000 college and university students. The estimated total of 39,557,000 students—an increase over last year's figure of 1,657,000—continues an 11-year consecutive increase.

SAVAGE SENDS STRONG RED CHINA PROTEST TO PRESIDENT

President Eisenhower has been made aware of evangelical negative sentiment relative to the U. S. recognition of Red China and its admission into the United Nations. The information was contained in a letter written to the Chief Executive by Dr. Henry H. Savage, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, and deliv-

ered in person by Clyde W. Taylor, NAE Secretary of Affairs.

Prior to delivering the strongly-worded protest, Dr. Taylor stated that the NAE president put the sentiment of evangelicals on record in such a manner because "several prominent Protestant churchmen have made various statements on this subject which have appeared to represent the Protestant viewpoint, although we are sure that their statements do not."

In his letter, Dr. Savage advised the President that "recognition of Chinese Communist aggressors" would be an eternal blot on our national conscience." He also pointed out that the Protestant leaders he referred to had conveniently overlooked the fact that they represented only "the smaller segment which has submitted itself to the communist government" while the evangelicals "stand with the larger segment . . . who have rejected Communism."

SIX OF 10 AMERICANS NOW BELONG TO CHURCHES

Nearly three million people were added to church membership rolls in the United States during the past year. The latest count shows that church membership climbed to 97,482,611 in 1954, a new record. A total of more than 60 per cent of all Americans, or six out of every ten persons, now claim to be members of some religious body.

Church membership today, percentage wise, far exceeds that of the mid-19th century, when Americans were popularly supposed to be more religious-minded than they are today.

Furthermore, Americans are donating more money than ever for religious purposes. There are more churches than ever. Sunday School membership is at an all-time high. These statistics are from the *Yearbook of American Churches for 1956*, released early in September by the National Council of Churches.

From Munich, Germany, Dr. Billy James Hargis of Tulsa, Okla., chairman of the Bible Balloon Project of the International Council of Christian Churches, announced that 100,000 portions of the Bible were sent to Russia, Czechoslovakia and Poland by hydrogen-filled balloons from a launching site near Cham, Western Germany. This is the second launching of Bible balloons directed by Dr. Hargis this year in Germany. In the past three

years, over a half million portions of the Bible printed in Czech, Slovak, Polish, Russian and German have been sent behind the Iron Curtain by this committee.

Larry T. Cramer of Akron, Ohio, read in a local paper about U. S. plans to launch a satellite moon into space. This presented a special problem to his mind, so he wrote a letter to the editor. This is how it read, as printed in the *Beacon Journal*:

"Man may fly to the moon and Mars in the near future, but to what avail?

"What will he take with him to another planet? His pride, egotism, selfishness, envy, avarice? His religious divisions, his racial strife, his puny political schemes, his strained social theories, his crumbling institutions? His fears?

"Will God allow one planet's sins to be transferred to another, perhaps unblemished, planet in His universe? Are we near the end of time, when our invasion of God's universe will not be allowed?

"I just don't know. I have no fear, but I have faith in the future."

Jerusalem residents are proud of their Biblical Zoo. A dozen years ago an Israeli zoologist, Dr. Aharon Shulov, got the idea for a new kind of menagerie—one in which all the animals mentioned in the Bible would be assembled.

By the time he had four monkeys, a vulture, an eagle, a couple of rabbits, and a lizard, the city government noticed he was causing a traffic jam and gave him a piece of land outside town.

The most popular animals are the bears. These are native Syrian bears of ancient local lineage. Despite its profusion in Scriptural times, the Syrian bear appeared doomed, with only six survivors, all in the London Zoo. But Dr. Shulov re-imported a pair to the land of their ancestors, and they promptly rewarded him by producing triplets.—(ERA—8-24-55)

ROUNDUP OF WORLD-WIDE CHRISTIAN NEWS REPORTS

In Finland the first international conference of representatives from seven countries met in Helsinki and discussed ways and means of cooperating to do a better job of evangelizing the gypsies in their own country.—(ERA—8-24-55)



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